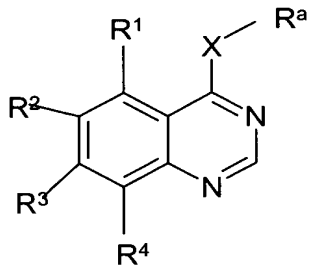
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. **(Currently Amended)** ~~The use~~ A method for inhibiting aurora 2 kinase in a warm blooded animal in need of such treatment, which comprises administering to said animal an effective amount of a compound of formula (I)

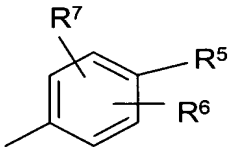


(I)

or a salt, ester, amide or prodrug thereof;

where X is O, or S, S(O) or $S(O)_2$, NH or NR^8 where R^8 is hydrogen or C_{1-6}alkyl;

R^a is a 3-quinoline group or a group of sub-formula (i)



(i)

where R^5 is either a group $-Z-(CH_2)_n-R^9$, halogen, a group of formula $NR^{10}R^{10'}$, an optionally ~~subsitituted~~ substituted hydrocarbyl group (other than ethenyl substituted by a carboxy group or an amide or sulphonamide derivative thereof), an optionally substituted heterocyclyl group or an optionally substituted alkoxy group; where Z is O or S, n is 0, or an integer of from 1 to 6, R^9 is hydrogen or optionally substituted hydrocarbyl or optionally substituted heterocyclyl; R^{10} and $R^{10'}$ are independently selected from hydrogen, optionally substituted hydrocarbyl or optionally substituted heterocyclyl, or R^{10} and $R^{10'}$ together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form an optionally substituted heterocyclic ring which may optionally contain further

heteroatoms, or an azo group of formula -N=N-R^{11} where R^{11} is an optionally substituted hydrocarbyl group or optionally substituted ~~heterocycyl~~ heterocyclyl group; R^6 and R^7 are independently selected from hydrogen, ~~halo,C_{1-4}alkyl~~halo, C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy, C_{1-4}alkoxymethyl, di(C_{1-4}alkoxy)methyl, C_{1-4}alkanoyl, trifluoromethyl, cyano, amino, C_{2-5}alkenyl, C_{2-5}alkynyl, a phenyl group, a benzyl group or a 5-6-membered heterocyclic group with 1-3 heteroatoms, selected independently from O, S and N, which heterocyclic group may be aromatic or non-aromatic and may be saturated (linked via a ring carbon or nitrogen atom) or unsaturated (linked via a ring carbon atom), and which phenyl, benzyl or heterocyclic group may bear on one or more ring carbon atoms up to 5 substituents selected from hydroxy, halogeno, C_{1-3}alkyl, C_{1-3}alkoxy, C_{1-3}alkanoyloxy, trifluoromethyl, cyano, amino, nitro, C_{2-4}alkanoyl, C_{1-4}alkanoylamino, C_{1-4}alkoxycarbonyl, C_{1-4}alkylsulphanyl, C_{1-4}alkylsulphinyl, C_{1-4}alkylsulphonyl, carbamoyl, N-C_{1-4}alkylcarbamoyl, N,N-di(C_{1-4}alkyl)carbamoyl, aminosulphonyl, N-C_{1-4}alkylaminosulphonyl, N,N-di(C_{1-4}alkyl)aminosulphonyl, C_{1-4}alkylsulphonylamino, and a saturated heterocyclic group selected from morpholino, thiomorpholino, pyrrolidinyl, piperazinyl, piperidinyl, imidazolidinyl and pyrazolidinyl, which saturated heterocyclic group may bear 1 or 2 substituents selected from oxo, hydroxy, halogeno, C_{1-3}alkyl, C_{1-3}alkoxy, C_{1-3}alkanoyloxy, trifluoromethyl, cyano, amino, nitro and C_{1-4}alkoxycarbonyl, and

R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4 are independently selected from halogeno, cyano, nitro, C_{1-3}alkylsulphanyl, -N(OH)R^{12} (wherein R^{12} is hydrogen, or C_{1-3}alkyl), or $R^{14}X^1$- (wherein X^1 represents a direct bond, -O-, -CH_2-, -OC(O)-, -C(O)-, -S-, -SO-, -SO_2-, -NR^{15}C(O)-, -C(O)NR^{16}-, -SO_2NR^{17}-, -$NR^{18}SO_2$- or -NR^{19}- (wherein R^{15}, R^{16}, R^{17}, R^{18} and R^{19} each independently represents hydrogen, C_{1-3}alkyl or C_{1-3}alkoxyC_{2-3}alkyl)), and R^{14} is hydrogen, optionally substituted hydrocarbyl, optionally substituted heterocyclyl or optionally substituted alkoxy~~; in the preparation of a medicament for use in the inhibtion of aurora 2 kinase~~.

2. **(Currently Amended)** The method ~~use~~ according to claim 1, wherein in the compound of formula (I), at least one group R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4 is a group $R^{14}X^1$- and R^{14} is hydrogen, an optionally substituted hydrocarbyl group selected from alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, aralkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl or cycloalkynyl, or combinations thereof; or an

optionally substituted heterocyclyl group of from 4 to 20 ring atoms, at least one of which is a heteroatom such as oxygen, sulphur or nitrogen and where the optional substituents comprise at least one functional group selected from nitro, cyano, halo, oxo, $=CR^{78}R^{79}$, $C(O)_xR^{77}$, OR^{77}, $S(O)_yR^{77}$, $NR^{78}R^{79}$, $C(O)NR^{78}R^{79}$, $OC(O)NR^{78}R^{79}$, $=NOR^{77}$, $-NR^{77}C(O)_xR^{78}$, $-NR^{77}CONR^{78}R^{79}$, $-N=CR^{78}R^{79}$, $S(O)_yNR^{78}R^{79}$ or $-NR^{77}S(O)_yR^{78}$ where R^{77}, R^{78} and R^{79} are independently selected from hydrogen, optionally substituted hydrocarbyl, optionally substituted ~~heterocyclyl~~ heterocyclyl or optionally substituted alkoxy, or R^{78} and R^{79} together form an optionally substituted ring which optionally contains further heteroatoms such as oxygen, nitrogen, S, S(O) or $S(O)_2$, where x is an integer of 1 or 2, y is 0 or an integer of 1-3.

3. **(Currently Amended)** The method ~~use~~ according to claim 2, where hydrocarbyl, heterocyclyl or alkoxy groups R^{77}, R^{78} and R^{79} as well as rings formed by R^{78} and R^{79} are optionally substituted by halo, perhaloalkyl, mercapto, alkylthio, hydroxy, carboxy, alkoxy, heteroaryl, heteroaryloxy, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, cycloalkynyl, alkenyloxy, alkynyloxy, alkoxyalkoxy, aryloxy (where the aryl group may be substituted by halo, nitro, or hydroxy), cyano, nitro, amino, mono- or di-alkyl amino, oximino or $S(O)_yR^{90}$ where y is as defined above and R^{90} is an alkyl.

4. **(Currently Amended)** The method ~~use~~ according to claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims, where~~ wherein in the compound of formula (I) at least one of R^1, R^2, R^3 and R^4 is a group $R^{14}X^1$- where X^1 is as defined in relation to formula (I) and R^{14} is selected from one of the following twenty-two groups:

1) hydrogen or C_{1-5}alkyl which may be unsubstituted or which may be substituted with one or more functional groups;

2) $-R^aX^2C(O)R^{20}$ (wherein X^2 represents -O- or $-NR^{21}$- (in which R^{21} represents hydrogen, or alkyl optionally substituted with a functional group) and R^{20} represents C_{1-3}alkyl, $-NR^{22}R^{23}$ or $-OR^{24}$ (wherein R^{22}, R^{23} and R^{24} which may be the same or different each represents hydrogen, or alkyl optionally substituted with a functional group));

3) $-R^bX^3R^{25}$ (wherein X^3 represents -O-, -C(O)-, -S-, -SO-, $-SO_2$-, -OC(O)-, $-NR^{26}C(O)$-, $-NR^{26}C(O)O$-, $-C(O)NR^{27}$-, $-C(O)ONR^{27}$-, $-SO_2NR^{28}$-, $-NR^{29}SO_2$- or $-NR^{30}$- (wherein

R^{26}, R^{27}, R^{28}, R^{29} and R^{30} each independently represents hydrogen, or alkyl optionally substituted with a functional group) and R^{25} represents hydrogen, hydrocarbyl (as defined herein) or a saturated heterocyclic group, wherein the hydrocarbyl or heterocyclic groups may be optionally substituted by one or more functional groups and the heterocyclic groups may additionally be substituted by a hydrocarbyl group);

4) $-R^cX^4R^{c'}X^5R^{31}$ (wherein X^4 and X^5 which may be the same or different are each -O-, -C(O)-, -S-, -SO-, $-SO_2-$, -OC(O)-, $-NR^{32}C(O)-$, $-NR^{32}C(O)O-$, $-C(O)NR^{33}-$, $-C(O)ONR^{33}-$, $-SO_2NR^{34}-$, $-NR^{35}SO_2-$ or $-NR^{36}-$ (wherein R^{32}, R^{33}, R^{34}, R^{35} and R^{36} each independently represents hydrogen or alkyl optionally substituted by a functional group) and R^{31} represents hydrogen, or alkyl optionally substituted by a functional group);

5) R^{37} wherein R^{37} is a C_{3-6} cycloalkyl or saturated heterocyclic ring (linked via carbon or nitrogen), which cycloalkyl or heterocyclic group may be substituted by one or more functional groups or by a hydrocarbyl or heterocyclyl group which hydrocarbyl or heterocyclyl group may be optionally substituted by one or more functional groups;

6) $-R^dR^{37}$ (wherein R^{37} is as defined hereinbefore);

7) $-R^eR^{37}$ (wherein R^{37} is as defined hereinbefore);

8) $-R^fR^{37}$ (wherein R^{37} is as defined hereinbefore);

9) R^{38} (wherein R^{38} represents a pyridone group, an aryl group or an aromatic heterocyclic group (linked via carbon or nitrogen) with 1-3 heteroatoms selected from O, N and S, which pyridone, aryl or aromatic heterocyclic group may be substituted by one or more functional groups or by a hydrocarbyl group optionally substituted by one or more functional groups or heterocyclyl groups, or by a heterocyclyl group optionally susbsituted by one or more functional groups or hydrocarbyl groups);

10) $-R^gR^{38}$ (wherein R^{38} is as defined hereinbefore);

11) $-R^hR^{38}$ (wherein R^{38} is as defined hereinbefore);

12) $-R^iR^{38}$ (wherein R^{38} is as defined hereinbefore);

13) $-R^jX^6R^{38}$ (wherein X^6 represents -O-, -S-, -SO-, $-SO_2-$, -OC(O)-, $-NR^{43}C(O)-$, $-NR^{43}C(O)O-$, $-C(O)NR^{44}-$, $-C(O)ONR^{44}-$, $-SO_2NR^{45}-$, $-NR^{46}SO_2-$ or $-NR^{47}-$ (wherein R^{43}, R^{44}, R^{45}, R^{46} and R^{47} each independently represents hydrogen, or alkyl optionally substituted with a functional group) and R^{38} is as defined hereinbefore);

14) $-R^kX^7R^{38}$ (wherein X^7 represents -O-, -C(O)-, -S-, -SO-, $-SO_2-$, -OC(O)-, $-NR^{48}C(O)-$, $NR^{48}C(O)O-$, $-C(O)NR^{49}-$, $-C(O)ONR^{49}-$, $-SO_2NR^{50}-$, $-NR^{51}SO_2-$ or $-NR^{52}-$

(wherein R^{48}, R^{49}, R^{50}, R^{51} and R^{52} each independently represents hydrogen, or alkyl optionally substituted with a functional group) and R^{38} is as defined hereinbefore);

15) $-R^mX^8R^{38}$ (wherein X^8 represents -O-, -C(O)-, -S-, -SO-, $-SO_2-$, -OC(O)-, $-NR^{53}C(O)-$, $-NR^{53}C(O)O-$, $-C(O)NR^{54}-$, $-C(O)ONR^{54}-$, $-SO_2NR^{55}-$, $-NR^{56}SO_2-$ or $-NR^{57}-$ (wherein R^{53}, R^{54}, R^{55}, R^{56} and R^{57} each independently represents hydrogen, hydrogen, or alkyl optionally substituted with a functional group) and R^{38} is as defined hereinbefore);

16) $-R^n X^9R^{n'}R^{38}$ (wherein X^9 represents -O-, -C(O)-, -S-, -SO-, $-SO_2-$, -OC(O)-, $-NR^{58}C(O)-$, $-NR^{58}C(O)O-$, $-C(O)NR^{59}-$, $-C(O)ONR^{59}-$, $-SO_2NR^{60}-$, $-NR^{61}SO_2-$ or $-NR^{62}-$ (wherein R^{58}, R^{59}, R^{60}, R^{61} and R^{62} each independently represents hydrogen, hydrogen, or alkyl optionally substituted with a functional group) and R^{38} is as defined hereinbefore);

17) $-R^p X^9-R^{p'}R^{37}$ (wherein X^9 and R^{37} are as defined hereinbefore);

18) C_{2-5}alkenyl which may be unsubstituted or which may be substituted with one or more functional groups;

19) C_{2-5}alkynyl which may be unsubstituted or which may be substituted with one or more functional groups;

20) $-R^tX^9R^{t'}R^{37}$ (wherein X^9 and R^{37} are as defined hereinbefore);

21) $-R^u X^9 R^{u'}R^{37}$ (wherein X^9 and R^{37} are as defined hereinbefore); and

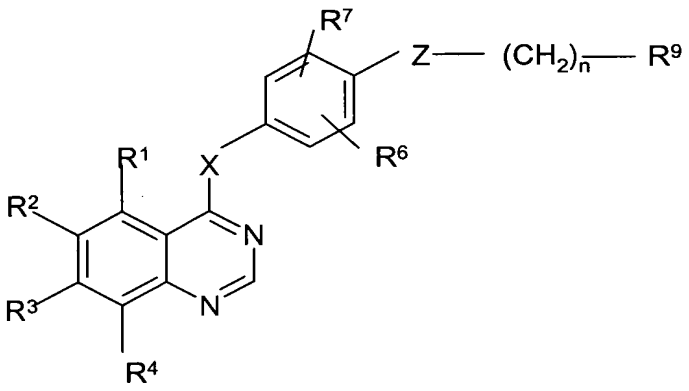
22) $-R^v R^{63}(R^{v'})_q(X^9)_rR^{64}$(wherein X^9 is as defined hereinbefore, q is 0 or 1, r is 0 or 1, and R^{63} is a C_{1-3}alkylene group or a cyclic group selected from divalent cycloalkyl or heterocyclic group, which C_{1-3}alkylene group may be substituted by one or more functional groups and which cyclic group may be substituted by one or more functional groups or by a hydrocarbyl group optionally substituted by one or more functional groups or heterocyclyl groups, or by a heterocyclyl group optionally ~~subsituted~~ substituted by one or more functional groups or hydrocarbyl groups; and R^{64} is hydrogen, C_{1-3}alkyl, or a cyclic group selected from cycloalkyl or heterocyclic group, which C_{1-3}alkyl group may be substituted by one or more functional groups and which cyclic group may be substituted by one or more ~~may be substituted by one or more~~ functional groups or by a hydrocarbyl group optionally substituted by one or more functional groups or heterocyclyl groups, or by a heterocyclyl group optionally substituted by one or more functional groups or hydrocarbyl groups);

and wherein R^a, R^b,[[,]] R^c, $R^{c'}$, R^d, R^g, R^j, R^n, $R^{n'}$ R^p, R^{p1}, $R^{t'}$, $R^{u'}$, R^v and $R^{v'}$ are independently selected from C_{1-8}alkylene groups optionally substitued by one or more functional groups,

R^e R^h, R^k and R^t are independently selected from C_{2-8}alkenylene groups optionally substituted by one or more functional groups, and

R^f, R^i, R^m and R^u are independently selected from C_{2-8}alkynylene groups optionally substituted by one or more functional groups.

5. **(Currently Amended)** The method ~~use~~ according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the compound ~~of formula (I)~~ is a compound of formula (II)



(II)

or a salt, ester, amide or prodrug thereof;

where X, Z, n, R^9, R^6, R^7, R^1, R^2, R^3 and R^4 are as defined in claim 1.

6. **(Currently Amended)** The method ~~use~~ according to claim 5, wherein ~~the compound of formula (II) is compound of formula (IIA) which has the structure (II) as shown in claim 5, or a~~

~~salt, ester or amide thereof; and~~

~~where~~ X is O, or S, S(O) or $S(O)_2$, or NR^8 where R^8 is hydrogen or C_{1-6}alkyl;

Z is O or S,

n is 0, or an integer of from 1 to 6

R^9 is hydrogen or optionally substituted hydrocarbyl or optionally substituted heterocyclyl;

and R^6 and R^7 are independently selected from hydrogen, halo, C_{1-4}alkyl ~~halo,C_{1-4}alkyl~~, C_{1-4} alkoxy, C_{1-4}alkoxymethyl, di(C_{1-4}alkoxy)methyl, C_{1-4}alkanoyl, trifluoromethyl, cyano, amino, C_{2-5}alkenyl, C_{2-5}alkynyl, a phenyl group, a benzyl group or a 5-6-membered heterocyclic group with 1-3 heteroatoms, selected independently from O, S and N, which heterocyclic group may be aromatic or non-aromatic and may be saturated (linked via a ring carbon or nitrogen atom) or unsaturated (linked via a ring carbon atom), and which phenyl, benzyl or heterocyclic group may bear on one or more ring carbon atoms up to 5 substituents selected from hydroxy, halogeno, C_{1-3}alkyl, C_{1-3}alkoxy, C_{1-3}alkanoyloxy, trifluoromethyl, cyano, amino, nitro, C_{2-4}alkanoyl, C_{1-4}alkanoylamino, C_{1-4}alkoxycarbonyl, C_{1-4}alkylsulphanyl, C_{1-4}alkylsulphinyl, C_{1-4}alkylsulphonyl, carbamoyl, N-C_{1-4}alkylcarbamoyl, N,N-di(C_{1-4}alkyl)carbamoyl, aminosulphonyl, N-C_{1-4}alkylaminosulphonyl, N,N-di(C_{1-4}alkyl)aminosulphonyl, C_{1-4}alkylsulphonylamino, and a saturated heterocyclic group selected from morpholino, thiomorpholino, pyrrolidinyl, piperazinyl, piperidinyl imidazolidinyl and pyrazolidinyl, which saturated heterocyclic group may bear 1 or 2 substituents selected from oxo, hydroxy, halogeno, C_{1-3}alkyl, C_{1-3}alkoxy, C_{1-3}alkanoyloxy, trifluoromethyl, cyano, amino, nitro and C_{1-4}alkoxycarbonyl, and

R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4 are independently selected from, halo, cyano, nitro, trifluoromethyl, C_{1-3}alkyl, $-NR^{12}R^{13}$ (wherein R^{12} and R^{13}, which may be the same or different, each represents hydrogen or C_{1-3}alkyl), or $-X^1R^{14}$ [[(]]wherein X^1 represents a direct bond, -O-, $-CH_2-$, -OCO-, carbonyl, -S-, -SO-, $-SO_2-$, $-NR^{15}CO-$, $-CONR^{16}-$, $-SO_2NR^{17}-$, $-NR^{18}SO_2-$ or $-NR^{19}-$ (wherein R^{15}, R^{16}, R^{17}, R^{18} and R^{19} each independently represents hydrogen, C_{1-3}alkyl or C_{1-3}alkoxyC_{2-3}alkyl), and R^{14} is selected from one of the following groups:

1') hydrogen or C_{1-5}alkyl which may be unsubstituted or which may be substituted with one or more groups selected from hydroxy, fluoro or amino,

2') C_{1-5}alkylX^2COR^{20} (wherein X^2 represents -O- or $-NR^{21}-$ (in which R^{20} represents hydrogen, C_{1-3}alkyl or C_{1-3}alkoxyC_{2-3}alkyl) and R^{21} represents C_{1-3}alkyl, $-NR^{22}R^{23}$ or $-OR^{24}$ (wherein R^{22}, R^{23} and R^{24} which may be the same or different each represents hydrogen, C_{1-3}alkyl or C_{1-3}alkoxyC_{2-3}alkyl));

3') $C_{1-5}alkylX^3R^{25}$ (wherein X^3 represents -O-, -S-, -SO-, $-SO_2-$, -OCO-, $-NR^{26}CO-$, $-CONR^{27}-$, $-SO_2NR^{28}-$, $-NR^{29}SO_2-$ or $-NR^{30}-$ (wherein R^{26}, R^{27}, R^{28}, R^{29} and R^{30} each independently represents hydrogen, $C_{1-3}alkyl$ or $C_{1-3}alkoxyC_{2-3}alkyl$) and R^{25} represents hydrogen, $C_{1-3}alkyl$, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl or a 5-6-membered saturated heterocyclic group with 1-2 heteroatoms, selected independently from O, S and N, which $C_{1-3}alkyl$ group may bear 1 or 2 substituents selected from oxo, hydroxy, halogeno and $C_{1-4}alkoxy$ and which cyclic group may bear 1 or 2 substituents selected from oxo, hydroxy, halogeno, $C_{1-4}alkyl$, $C_{1-4}hydroxyalkyl$ and $C_{1-4}alkoxy$);

4') $C_{1-5}alkylX^4C_{1-5}alkylX^5R^{31}$ (wherein X^4 and X^5 which may be the same or different are each -O-, -S-, -SO-, $-SO_2-$, $-NR^{32}CO-$, $-CONR^{33}-$, $-SO_2NR^{34}-$, $-NR^{35}SO_2-$ or $-NR^{36}-$ (wherein R^{32}, R^{33}, R^{34}, R^{35} and R^{36} each independently represents hydrogen, $C_{1-3}alkyl$ or $C_{1-3}alkoxyC_{2-3}alkyl$) and R^{31} represents hydrogen or $C_{1-3}alkyl$);

5') R^{37} (wherein R^{37} is a 5-6-membered saturated heterocyclic group (linked via carbon or nitrogen) with 1-2 heteroatoms, selected independently from O, S and N, which heterocyclic group may bear 1 or 2 substituents selected from oxo, hydroxy, halogeno, $C_{1-4}alkyl$, $C_{1-4}hydroxyalkyl$, $C_{1-4}alkoxy$, $C_{1-4}alkoxyC_{1-4}alkyl$ and $C_{1-4}alkylsulphonylC_{1-4}alkyl$);

6') $C_{1-5}alkylR^{37}$ (wherein R^{37} is as defined hereinbefore in (5'));

7') $C_{2-5}alkenylR^{37}$ (wherein R^{37} is as defined hereinbefore in (5'));

8') $C_{2-5}alkynylR^{37}$ (wherein R^{37} is as defined hereinbefore in (5'));

9') R^{38} (wherein R^{38} represents a pyridone group, a phenyl group or a 5-6-membered aromatic heterocyclic group (linked via carbon or nitrogen) with 1-3 heteroatoms selected from O, N and S, which pyridone, phenyl or aromatic heterocyclic group may carry up to 5 substituents on an available carbon atom selected from hydroxy, halogeno, amino, $C_{1-4}alkyl$, $C_{1-4}alkoxy$, $C_{1-4}hydroxyalkyl$, $C_{1-4}aminoalkyl$, $C_{1-4}alkylamino$, $C_{1-4}hydroxyalkoxy$, carboxy, trifluoromethyl, cyano, $-CONR^{39}R^{40}$ and $-NR^{41}COR^{42}$ (wherein R^{39}, R^{40}, R^{41} and R^{42}, which may be the same or different, each represents hydrogen, $C_{1-4}alkyl$ or $C_{1-3}alkoxyC_{2-3}alkyl$));

10') $C_{1-5}alkylR^{38}$ (wherein R^{38} is as defined hereinbefore in (9'));

11') $C_{2-5}alkenylR^{38}$ (wherein R^{38} is as defined hereinbefore in (9'));

12') $C_{2-5}alkynylR^{38}$ (wherein R^{38} is as defined hereinbefore in (9'));

13') C_{1-5}alkylX^6R^{38} (wherein X^6 represents -O-, -S-, -SO-, $-SO_2-$, $-NR^{43}CO-$, $-CONR^{44}-$, $-SO_2NR^{45}-$, $-NR^{46}SO_2-$ or $-NR^{47}-$ (wherein R^{43}, R^{44}, R^{45}, R^{46} and R^{47} each independently represents hydrogen, C_{1-3}alkyl or C_{1-3}alkoxyC_{2-3}alkyl) and R^{38} is as defined hereinbefore in (9'));

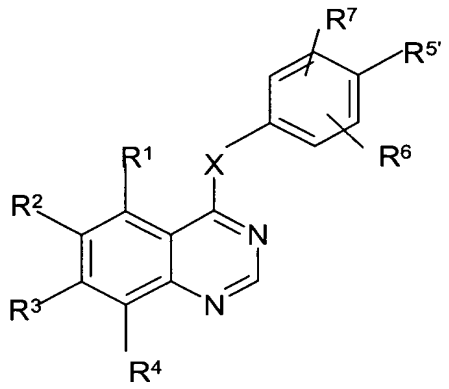
14') C_{2-5}alkenylX^7R^{38} (wherein X^7 represents -O-, -S-, -SO-, $-SO_2-$, $-NR^{48}CO-$, $-CONR^{49}-$, $-SO_2NR^{50}-$, $-NR^{51}SO_2-$ or $-NR^{52}-$ (wherein R^{48}, R^{49}, R^{50}, R^{51} and R^{52} each independently represents hydrogen, C_{1-3}alkyl or C_{1-3}alkoxyC_{2-3}alkyl) and R^{38} is as defined hereinbefore in (9'));

15') C_{2-5}alkynylX^8R^{38} (wherein X^8 represents -O-, -S-, -SO-, $-SO_2-$, $-NR^{53}CO-$, $-CONR^{54}-$, $-SO_2NR^{55}-$, $-NR^{56}SO_2-$ or $-NR^{57}-$ (wherein R^{53}, R^{54}, R^{55}, R^{56} and R^{57} each independently represents hydrogen, C_{1-3}alkyl or C_{1-3}alkoxyC_{2-3}alkyl) and R^{38} is as defined hereinbefore in (9'));

16') C_{1-3}alkylX^9C_{1-3}alkylR^{38} (wherein X^9 represents -O-, -S-, -SO-, $-SO_2-$, $-NR^{58}CO-$, $-CONR^{59}-$, $-SO_2NR^{60}-$, $-NR^{61}SO_2-$ or $-NR^{62}-$ (wherein R^{58}, R^{59}, R^{60}, R^{61} and R^{62} each independently represents hydrogen, C_{1-3}alkyl or C_{1-3}alkoxyC_{2-3}alkyl) and R^{38} is as defined hereinbefore (in 9')); and

17') C_{1-3}alkylX^9C_{1-3}alkylR^{37} (wherein X^9 and R^{37} are as defined hereinbefore (in 5')).

7. **(Currently Amended)** The method ~~use~~ according to any one of claims 1 to ~~5~~ 4, wherein the compound ~~of formula (I)~~ is a compound of formula (III)



(III)

or a salt, ester, amide or prodrug thereof;

where X, R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4, R^6 and R^7 are as defined in claim 1 and $R^{5'}$ is an optionally ~~subsitituted~~ substituted hydrocarbyl, optionally substituted heterocyclyl or optionally substituted alkoxy group, provided that $R^{5'}$ is other than ethenyl substituted by a carboxy group or an amide or sulphonamide derivative thereof.

8. **(Currently Amended)** The method ~~use~~ according to claim 7, wherein ~~the compound of formula (III) is a compound of formula (IIIA) which is of structure (III) as shown above, or a salt, ester or amide thereof; and~~

~~where~~ X is O, or S, S(O) or $S(O)_2$, or NR^8 where R^8 is hydrogen or C_{1-6}alkyl;

$R^{5'}$ is hydrogen or optionally substituted hydrocarbyl or optionally substituted heterocyclyl;

and R^6 and R^7 are independently selected from hydrogen, halo, C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy, C_{1-4}alkoxymethyl, di(C_{1-4}alkoxy)methyl, C_{1-4}alkanoyl, trifluoromethyl, cyano, amino, C_{2-5}alkenyl, C_{2-5}alkynyl, a phenyl group, a benzyl group or a 5-6-membered heterocyclic group with 1-3 heteroatoms, selected independently from O, S and N, which heterocyclic group may be aromatic or non-aromatic and may be saturated (linked via a ring carbon or nitrogen atom) or unsaturated (linked via a ring carbon atom), and which phenyl, benzyl or heterocyclic group may bear on one or more ring carbon atoms up to 5 substituents selected from hydroxy, halogeno, C_{1-3}alkyl, C_{1-3}alkoxy, C_{1-3}alkanoyloxy, trifluoromethyl,

cyano, amino, nitro, C_{2-4}alkanoyl, C_{1-4}alkanoylamino, C_{1-4}alkoxycarbonyl, C_{1-4}alkylsulphanyl, C_{1-4}alkylsulphinyl, C_{1-4}alkylsulphonyl, carbamoyl, N-C_{1-4}alkylcarbamoyl, N,N-di(C_{1-4}alkyl)carbamoyl, aminosulphonyl, N-C_{1-4}alkylaminosulphonyl, N,N-di(C_{1-4}alkyl)aminosulphonyl, C_{1-4}alkylsulphonylamino, and a saturated heterocyclic group selected from morpholino, thiomorpholino, pyrrolidinyl, piperazinyl, piperidinyl, imidazolidinyl and pyrazolidinyl, which saturated heterocyclic group may bear 1 or 2 substituents selected from oxo, hydroxy, halogeno, C_{1-3}alkyl, C_{1-3}alkoxy, C_{1-3}alkanoyloxy, trifluoromethyl, cyano, amino, nitro and C_{1-4}alkoxycarbonyl, and

R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4 are independently selected from, halo, cyano, nitro, trifluoromethyl, C_{1-3}alkyl, $-NR^{12}R^{13}$ (wherein R^{12} and R^{13}, which may be the same or different, each represents hydrogen or C_{1-3}alkyl), or $-X^1R^{14}$ [[(]]wherein X^1 represents a direct bond, -O-, $-CH_2-$, -OCO-, carbonyl, -S-, -SO-, $-SO_2-$, $-NR^{15}CO-$, $-CONR^{16}-$, $-SO_2NR^{17}-$, $-NR^{18}SO_2-$ or $-NR^{19}-$ (wherein R^{15}, R^{16}, R^{17}, R^{18} and R^{19} each independently represents hydrogen, C_{1-3}alkyl or C_{1-3}alkoxyC_{2-3}alkyl), and R^{14} is selected from one of the following groups:

1') hydrogen or C_{1-5}alkyl which may be unsubstituted or which may be substituted with one or more groups selected from hydroxy, fluoro or amino,

2') C_{1-5}alkylX^2COR^{20} (wherein X^2 represents -O- or $-NR^{21}-$ (in which R^{20} represents hydrogen, C_{1-3}alkyl or C_{1-3}alkoxyC_{2-3}alkyl) and R^{21} represents C_{1-3}alkyl, $-NR^{22}R^{23}$ or $-OR^{24}$ (wherein R^{22}, R^{23} and R^{24} which may be the same or different each represents hydrogen, C_{1-3}alkyl or C_{1-3}alkoxyC_{2-3}alkyl));

3') C_{1-5}alkylX^3R^{25} (wherein X^3 represents -O-, -S-, -SO-, $-SO_2-$, -OCO-, $-NR^{26}CO-$, $-CONR^{27}-$, $-SO_2NR^{28}-$, $-NR^{29}SO_2-$ or $-NR^{30}-$ (wherein R^{26}, R^{27}, R^{28}, R^{29} and R^{30} each independently represents hydrogen, C_{1-3}alkyl or C_{1-3}alkoxyC_{2-3}alkyl) and R^{25} represents hydrogen, C_{1-3}alkyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl or a 5-6-membered saturated heterocyclic group with 1-2 heteroatoms, selected independently from O, S and N, which C_{1-3}alkyl group may bear 1 or 2 substituents selected from oxo, hydroxy, halogeno and C_{1-4}alkoxy and which cyclic group may bear 1 or 2 substituents selected from oxo, hydroxy, halogeno, C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}hydroxyalkyl and C_{1-4}alkoxy);

4') C_{1-5}alkylX^4C_{1-5}alkylX^5R^{31} (wherein X^4 and X^5 which may be the same or different are each -O-, -S-, -SO-, $-SO_2-$, $-NR^{32}CO-$, $-CONR^{33}-$, $-SO_2NR^{34}-$, $-NR^{35}SO_2-$ or-$NR^{36}-$

(wherein R^{32}, R^{33}, R^{34}, R^{35} and R^{36} each independently represents hydrogen, C_{1-3}alkyl or C_{1-3}alkoxyC_{2-3}alkyl) and R^{31} represents hydrogen or C_{1-3}alkyl);

5') R^{37} (wherein R^{37} is a 5-6-membered saturated heterocyclic group (linked via carbon or nitrogen) with 1-2 heteroatoms, selected independently from O, S and N, which heterocyclic group may bear 1 or 2 substituents selected from oxo, hydroxy, halogeno, C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}hydroxyalkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy, C_{1-4}alkoxyC_{1-4}alkyl and C_{1-4}alkylsulphonylC_{1-4}alkyl);

6') C_{1-5}alkylR^{37} (wherein R^{37} is as defined hereinbefore in (5'));

7') C_{2-5}alkenylR^{37} (wherein R^{37} is as defined hereinbefore in (5'));

8') C_{2-5}alkynylR^{37} (wherein R^{37} is as defined hereinbefore in (5'));

9') R^{38} (wherein R^{38} represents a pyridone group, a phenyl group or a 5-6-membered aromatic heterocyclic group (linked via carbon or nitrogen) with 1-3 heteroatoms selected from O, N and S, which pyridone, phenyl or aromatic heterocyclic group may carry up to 5 substituents on an available carbon atom selected from hydroxy, halogeno, amino, C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy, C_{1-4}hydroxyalkyl, C_{1-4}aminoalkyl, C_{1-4}alkylamino, C_{1-4}hydroxyalkoxy, carboxy, trifluoromethyl, cyano, $-CONR^{39}R^{40}$ and $-NR^{41}COR^{42}$ (wherein R^{39}, R^{40}, R^{41} and R^{42}, which may be the same or different, each represents hydrogen, C_{1-4}alkyl or C_{1-3}alkoxyC_{2-3}alkyl));

10') C_{1-5}alkylR^{38} (wherein R^{38} is as defined hereinbefore in (9'));

11') C_{2-5}alkenylR^{38} (wherein R^{38} is as defined hereinbefore in (9'));

12') C_{2-5}alkynylR^{38} (wherein R^{38} is as defined hereinbefore in (9'));

13') C_{1-5}alkylX^6R^{38} (wherein X^6 represents -O-, -S-, -SO-, $-SO_2-$, $-NR^{43}CO-$, $-CONR^{44}-$, $-SO_2NR^{45}-$, $-NR^{46}SO_2-$ or $-NR^{47}-$ (wherein R^{43}, R^{44}, R^{45}, R^{46} and R^{47} each independently represents hydrogen, C_{1-3}alkyl or C_{1-3}alkoxyC_{2-3}alkyl) and R^{38} is as defined hereinbefore in (9'));

14') C_{2-5}alkenylX^7R^{38} (wherein X^7 represents -O-, -S-, -SO-, $-SO_2-$, $-NR^{48}CO-$, $-CONR^{49}-$, $-SO_2NR^{50}-$, $-NR^{51}SO_2-$ or $-NR^{52}-$ (wherein R^{48}, R^{49}, R^{50}, R^{51} and R^{52} each independently represents hydrogen, C_{1-3}alkyl or C_{1-3}alkoxyC_{2-3}alkyl) and R^{38} is as defined hereinbefore in (9'));

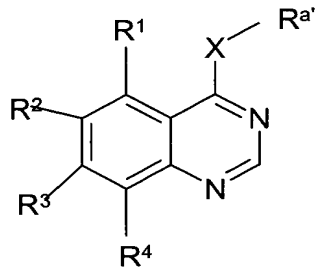
15') C_{2-5}alkynylX^8R^{38} (wherein X^8 represents -O-, -S-, -SO-, $-SO_2-$, $-NR^{53}CO-$, $-CONR^{54}-$, $-SO_2NR^{55}-$, $-NR^{56}SO_2-$ or $-NR^{57}-$ (wherein R^{53}, R^{54}, R^{55}, R^{56} and R^{57} each

independently represents hydrogen, C_{1-3}alkyl or C_{1-3}alkoxyC_{2-3}alkyl) and R^{38} is as defined hereinbefore in (9'));

16') C_{1-3}alkylX^9C_{1-3}alkylR^{38} (wherein X^9 represents -O-, -S-, -SO-, -SO_2-, -NR^{58}CO-, -$CONR^{59}$-, -SO_2NR^{60}-, -$NR^{61}SO_2$- or -NR^{62}- (wherein R^{58}, R^{59}, R^{60}, R^{61} and R^{62} each independently represents hydrogen, C_{1-3}alkyl or C_{1-3}alkoxyC_{2-3}alkyl) and R^{38} is as defined hereinbefore in (9')); and

17') C_{1-3}alkylX^9C_{1-3}alkylR^{37} (wherein X^9 and R^{37} are as defined hereinbefore (in 5') ~~in the preparation of a medicament for use in the inhibtion of aurora 2 kinase~~.

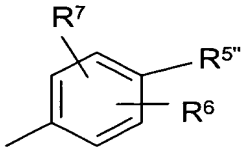
9. **(Currently Amended)** The method ~~use~~ according to any one of claims 1 to ~~5~~ 4, ~~where~~ wherein the compound ~~of formula (I)~~ is a compound of formula (IV)



(IV)

or a salt, ester, amide or prodrug thereof;

where R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4 and X are as defined in claim 1 and $R^{a'}$ is a 3-quinoline group or a group of sub-formula (i)



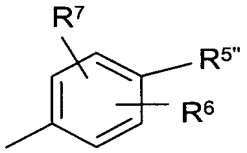
(i)

where R^6 and R^7 are as defined in relation to formula (I) and $R^{5''}$ is halogen or a group of formula $NR^{10}R^{10'}$ where R^{10} and $R^{10'}$ are as defined in claim 1.

10. **(Currently Amended)** The method ~~use~~ according to claim 9, wherein ~~the compound of formula (VI) is a compound of formula (IVA) which is of structure (IV) as shown above, or a salt, ester or amide thereof;~~

~~where~~ X is O, or S, S(O) or $S(O)_2$, or NR^8 where R^8 is hydrogen or C_{1-6}alkyl;

$R^{a'}$ is a 3-quinoline group or a group of sub-formula (i)



(i)

where $R^{5"}$ is halogen or a group of formula $NR^{10}R^{10'}$ where R^{10} and $R^{10'}$ are selected from hydrogen or optionally substituted hydrocarbyl or R^{10} and $R^{10'}$ together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a heterocyclic ring which may optionally contain further heteroatoms or an azo group of formula $-N=N-R^{11}$ where R^{11} is an optionally substituted hydrocarbyl group or optionally substituted heterocyclic group;

R^6 and R^7 are independently selected from hydrogen, ~~halo,C_{1-4}alkyl~~ halo, C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy, C_{1-4}alkoxymethyl, di(C_{1-4}alkoxy)methyl, C_{1-4}alkanoyl, trifluoromethyl, cyano, amino, C_{2-5}alkenyl, C_{2-5}alkynyl, a phenyl group, a benzyl group or a 5-6-membered heterocyclic group with 1-3 heteroatoms, selected independently from O, S and N, which heterocyclic group may be aromatic or non-aromatic and may be saturated (linked via a ring carbon or nitrogen atom) or unsaturated (linked via a ring carbon atom), and which phenyl, benzyl or heterocyclic group may bear on one or more ring carbon atoms up to 5 substituents selected from hydroxy, halogeno, C_{1-3}alkyl, C_{1-3}alkoxy, C_{1-3}alkanoyloxy, trifluoromethyl, cyano, amino, nitro, C_{2-4}alkanoyl, C_{1-4}alkanoylamino, C_{1-4}alkoxycarbonyl, C_{1-4}alkylsulphanyl, C_{1-4}alkylsulphinyl, C_{1-4}alkylsulphonyl, carbamoyl, N-C_{1-4}alkylcarbamoyl, N,N-di(C_{1-4}alkyl)carbamoyl, aminosulphonyl, N-C_{1-4}alkylaminosulphonyl, N,N-di(C_{1-4}alkyl)aminosulphonyl, C_{1-4}alkylsulphonylamino, and a saturated heterocyclic group selected from ~~morpholino,thiomorpholino~~ morpholino, thiomorpholino, pyrrolidinyl, piperazinyl, piperidinyl, imidazolidinyl and pyrazolidinyl, which saturated heterocyclic group may bear 1 or 2 substituents selected from oxo, hydroxy, halogeno, C_{1-3}alkyl, C_{1-3}alkoxy, C_{1-3}alkanoyloxy, trifluoromethyl, cyano, amino, nitro and C_{1-4}alkoxycarbonyl, and

R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4 are independently selected from, halo, cyano, nitro, trifluoromethyl, C_{1-3}alkyl, $-NR^{12}R^{13}$ (wherein R^{12} and R^{14}, which may be the same or different, each represents hydrogen or C_{1-3}alkyl), or $-X^1R^{14}$ [[(]] wherein X^1 represents a direct bond, -O-, $-CH_2-$, -OCO-, carbonyl, -S-, -SO-, $-SO_2-$, $-NR^{15}CO-$, $-CONR^{16}-$, $-SO_2NR^{17}-$, $-NR^{18}SO_2-$ or $-NR^{19}-$ (wherein R^{15}, R^{16}, R^{17}, R^{18} and R^{19} each independently represents hydrogen, C_{1-3}alkyl or C_{1-3}alkoxyC_{2-3}alkyl), and R^{14} is selected from one of the following groups:

1') hydrogen or C_{1-5}alkyl which may be unsubstituted or which may be substituted with one or more groups selected from hydroxy, fluoro or amino,

2') C_{1-5}alkylX^2COR^{20} (wherein X^2 represents -O- or $-NR^{21}-$ (in which R^{20} represents hydrogen, C_{1-3}alkyl or C_{1-3}alkoxyC_{2-3}alkyl) and R^{21} represents C_{1-3}alkyl, $-NR^{22}R^{23}$ or $-OR^{24}$ (wherein R^{22}, R^{23} and R^{24} which may be the same or different each represents hydrogen, C_{1-3}alkyl or C_{1-3}alkoxyC_{2-3}alkyl));

3') C_{1-5}alkylX^3R^{25} (wherein X^3 represents -O-, -S-, -SO-, $-SO_2-$, -OCO-, $-NR^{26}CO-$, $-CONR^{27}-$, $-SO_2NR^{28}-$, $-NR^{29}SO_2-$ or $-NR^{30}-$ (wherein R^{26}, R^{27}, R^{28}, R^{29} and R^{30} each independently represents hydrogen, C_{1-3}alkyl or C_{1-3}alkoxyC_{2-3}alkyl) and R^{25} represents hydrogen, C_{1-3}alkyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl or a 5-6-membered saturated heterocyclic group with 1-2 heteroatoms, selected independently from O, S and N, which C_{1-3}alkyl group may bear 1 or 2 substituents selected from oxo, hydroxy, halogeno and C_{1-4}alkoxy and which cyclic group may bear 1 or 2 substituents selected from oxo, hydroxy, halogeno, C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}hydroxyalkyl and C_{1-4}alkoxy);

4') C_{1-5}alkylX^4C_{1-5}alkylX^5R^{31} (wherein X^4 and X^5 which may be the same or different are each -O-, -S-, -SO-, $-SO_2-$, $-NR^{32}CO-$, $-CONR^{33}-$, $-SO_2NR^{34}-$, $-NR^{35}SO_2-$ or $-NR^{36}-$ (wherein R^{32}, R^{33}, R^{34}, R^{35} and R^{36} each independently represents hydrogen, C_{1-3}alkyl or C_{1-3}alkoxyC_{2-3}alkyl) and R^{31} represents hydrogen or C_{1-3}alkyl);

5') R^{37} (wherein R^{37} is a 5-6-membered saturated heterocyclic group (linked via carbon or nitrogen) with 1-2 heteroatoms, selected independently from O, S and N, which heterocyclic group may bear 1 or 2 substituents selected from oxo, hydroxy, halogeno, C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}hydroxyalkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy, C_{1-4}alkoxyC_{1-4}alkyl and C_{1-4}alkylsulphonylC_{1-4}alkyl);

6') C_{1-5}alkylR^{37} (wherein R^{37} is as defined hereinbefore in (5'));

7') C_{2-5}alkenylR^{37} (wherein R^{37} is as defined hereinbefore in (5'));

8') C_{2-5}alkynylR^{37} (wherein R^{37} is as defined hereinbefore in (5'));

9') R^{38} (wherein R^{38} represents a pyridone group, a phenyl group or a 5-6-membered aromatic heterocyclic group (linked via carbon or nitrogen) with 1-3 heteroatoms selected from O, N and S, which pyridone, phenyl or aromatic heterocyclic group may carry up to 5 substituents on an available carbon atom selected from hydroxy, halogeno, amino, C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy, C_{1-4}hydroxyalkyl, C_{1-4}aminoalkyl, C_{1-4}alkylamino, C_{1-4}hydroxyalkoxy, carboxy, trifluoromethyl, cyano, -$CONR^{39}R^{40}$ and -$NR^{41}COR^{42}$ (wherein R^{39}, R^{40}, R^{41} and R^{42}, which may be the same or different, each represents hydrogen, C_{1-4}alkyl or C_{1-3}alkoxyC_{2-3}alkyl));

10') C_{1-5}alkylR^{38} (wherein R^{38} is as defined hereinbefore in (9'));

11') C_{2-5}alkenylR^{38} (wherein R^{38} is as defined hereinbefore in (9'));

12') C_{2-5}alkynylR^{38} (wherein R^{38} is as defined hereinbefore in (9'));

13') C_{1-5}alkylX^6R^{38} (wherein X^6 represents -O-, -S-, -SO-, -SO_2-, -NR^{43}CO-, -$CONR^{44}$-, -SO_2NR^{45}-, -$NR^{46}SO_2$- or -NR^{47}- (wherein R^{43}, R^{44}, R^{45}, R^{46} and R^{47} each independently represents hydrogen, C_{1-3}alkyl or C_{1-3}alkoxyC_{2-3}alkyl) and R^{38} is as defined hereinbefore in (9'));

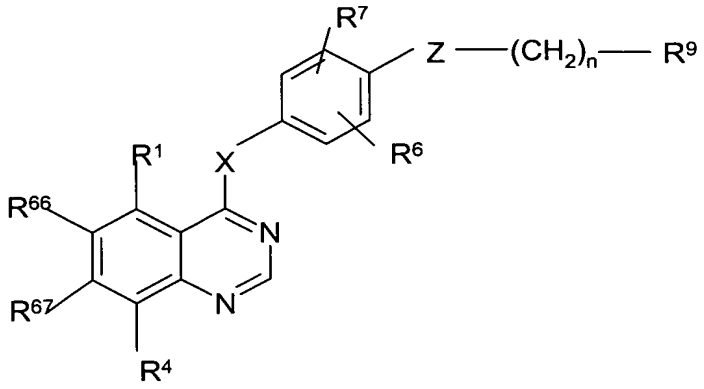
14') C_{2-5}alkenylX^7R^{38} (wherein X^7 represents -O-, -S-, -SO-, -SO_2-, -NR^{48}CO-, -$CONR^{49}$-, -SO_2NR^{50}-, -$NR^{51}SO_2$- or -NR^{52}- (wherein R^{48}, R^{49}, R^{50}, R^{51} and R^{52} each independently represents hydrogen, C_{1-3}alkyl or C_{1-3}alkoxyC_{2-3}alkyl) and R^{38} is as defined hereinbefore in (9'));

15') C_{2-5}alkynylX^8R^{38} (wherein X^8 represents -O-, -S-, -SO-, -SO_2-, -NR^{53}CO-, -$CONR^{54}$-, -SO_2NR^{55}-, -$NR^{56}SO_2$- or -NR^{57}- (wherein R^{53}, R^{54}, R^{55}, R^{56} and R^{57} each independently represents hydrogen, C_{1-3}alkyl or C_{1-3}alkoxyC_{2-3}alkyl) and R^{38} is as defined hereinbefore in (9'));

16') C_{1-3}alkylX^9C_{1-3}alkylR^{38} (wherein X^9 represents -O-, -S-, -SO-, -SO_2-, -NR^{58}CO-, -$CONR^{59}$-, -SO_2NR^{60}-, -$NR^{61}SO_2$- or -NR^{62}- (wherein R^{58}, R^{59}, R^{60}, R^{61} and R^{62} each independently represents hydrogen, C_{1-3}alkyl or C_{1-3}alkoxyC_{2-3}alkyl) and R^{38} is as defined hereinbefore in (9')); and

17') C_{1-3}alkylX^9C_{1-3}alkylR^{37} (wherein X^9 and R^{37} are as defined hereinbefore (in 5').

11. **(Currently Amended)** A compound of formula (IIB)



(IIB)

or a salt, ester, amide or prodrug thereof

where ~~X, Z, R^9, R^6 and R^7 and n are as defined in claim 1~~

X is O, or S, S(O) or $S(O)_2$, NH or NR^8 where R^8 is hydrogen or C_{1-6}alkyl,

Z is O or S,

R^9 is hydrogen or optionally substituted hydrocarbyl or optionally substituted heterocyclyl,

R^6 and R^7 are independently selected from hydrogen, ~~halo, C_{1-4}alkyl~~halo, C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy, C_{1-4}alkoxymethyl, di(C_{1-4}alkoxy)methyl, C_{1-4}alkanoyl, trifluoromethyl, cyano, amino, C_{2-5}alkenyl, C_{2-5}alkynyl, a phenyl group, a benzyl group or a 5-6-membered heterocyclic group with 1-3 heteroatoms, selected independently from O, S and N, which heterocyclic group may be aromatic or non-aromatic and may be saturated (linked via a ring carbon or nitrogen atom) or unsaturated (linked via a ring carbon atom), and which phenyl, benzyl or heterocyclic group may bear on one or more ring carbon atoms up to 5 substituents selected from hydroxy, halogeno, C_{1-3}alkyl, C_{1-3}alkoxy, C_{1-3}alkanoyloxy, trifluoromethyl, cyano, amino, nitro, C_{2-4}alkanoyl, C_{1-4}alkanoylamino, C_{1-4}alkoxycarbonyl, C_{1-4}alkylsulphanyl, C_{1-4}alkylsulphinyl, C_{1-4}alkylsulphonyl, carbamoyl, N-C_{1-4}alkylcarbamoyl, N,N-di(C_{1-4}alkyl)carbamoyl, aminosulphonyl, N-C_{1-4}alkylaminosulphonyl, N,N-di(C_{1-4}alkyl)aminosulphonyl, C_{1-4}alkylsulphonylamino, and a saturated heterocyclic group selected from morpholino, thiomorpholino, pyrrolidinyl, piperazinyl, piperidinyl, imidazolidinyl and pyrazolidinyl, which saturated heterocyclic group may bear 1 or 2 substituents selected from oxo, hydroxy, halogeno,

C_{1-3}alkyl, C_{1-3}alkoxy, C_{1-3}alkanoyloxy, trifluoromethyl, cyano, amino, nitro and C_{1-4}alkoxycarbonyl,

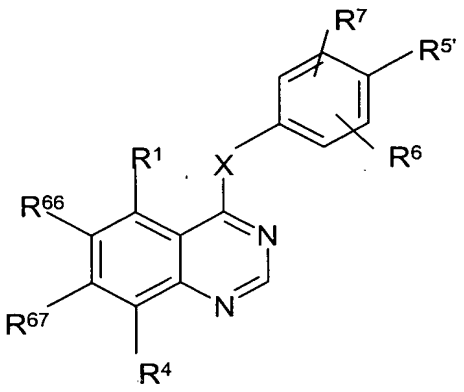
R^1, R^4 are independently selected from halogeno, cyano, nitro, C_{1-3}alkylsulphanyl, $-N(OH)R^{12}$ (wherein R^{12} is hydrogen, or C_{1-3}alkyl), or $R^{14}X^1$- (wherein X^1 represents a direct bond, -O-, $-CH_2$-, -OC(O)-, -C(O)-, -S-, -SO-, $-SO_2$-, $-NR^{15}C(O)$-, $-C(O)NR^{16}$-, $-SO_2NR^{17}$-, $-NR^{18}SO_2$- or $-NR^{19}$- (wherein R^{15}, R^{16}, R^{17}, R^{18} and R^{19} each independently represents hydrogen, C_{1-3}alkyl or C_{1-3}alkoxyC_{2-3}alkyl)), and R^{14} is hydrogen, optionally substituted hydrocarbyl, optionally substituted heterocyclyl or optionally substituted alkoxy;

and n is 0, or an integer of from 1 to 6,

R^{66} is halo, cyano, nitro, trifluoromethyl, C_{1-3}alkyl, $-NR^{12}R^{13}$ (wherein R^{12} and R^{13}, which may be the same or different, each represents hydrogen or C_{1-3}alkyl), or a group $-X^1R^{14}$ ~~where X^1 and R^{14} are as defined in claim 1;~~ (wherein X^1 represents a direct bond, -O-, $-CH_2$-, -OC(O)-, -C(O)-, -S-, -SO-, $-SO_2$-, $-NR^{15}C(O)$-, $-C(O)NR^{16}$-, $-SO_2NR^{17}$-, $-NR^{18}SO_2$- or $-NR^{19}$- (wherein R^{15}, R^{16}, R^{17}, R^{18} and R^{19} each independently represents hydrogen, C_{1-3}alkyl or C_{1-3}alkoxyC_{2-3}alkyl)), and R^{14} is hydrogen, optionally substituted hydrocarbyl, optionally substituted heterocyclyl or optionally substituted alkoxy;

and R^{67} is C_{1-6} alkoxy optionally ~~subsitituted~~ substituted ~~by fluorine or~~ with a group X^1R^{38} ~~in which X^1~~ (wherein X^1 represents a direct bond, -O-, $-CH_2$-, -OC(O)-, -C(O)-, -S-, -SO-, $-SO_2$-, $-NR^{15}C(O)$-, $-C(O)NR^{16}$-, $-SO_2NR^{17}$-, $-NR^{18}SO_2$- or $-NR^{19}$- (wherein R^{15}, R^{16}, R^{17}, R^{18} and R^{19} each independently represents hydrogen, C_{1-3}alkyl or C_{1-3}alkoxyC_{2-3}alkyl)), ~~and R^{38} are as defined in claim 1~~ and R^{38} is a pyridone group, an aryl group or an aromatic heterocyclic group (linked via carbon or nitrogen) with 1-3 heteroatoms selected from O, N and S, which pyridone, aryl or aromatic heterocyclic group may be substituted by one or more functional groups or by a hydrocarbyl group optionally substituted by one or more functional groups or heterocyclyl groups, or by a heterocyclyl group optionally susbsituted by one or more functional groups or hydrocarbyl groups, or R^{67} is 3-morpholinopropoxy; provided that ~~at least one of R^{66} and~~ R^{67} is other than ~~unsubtituted~~ unsubstituted alkoxy ~~methoxy~~;

or a compound of formula (IIIB)



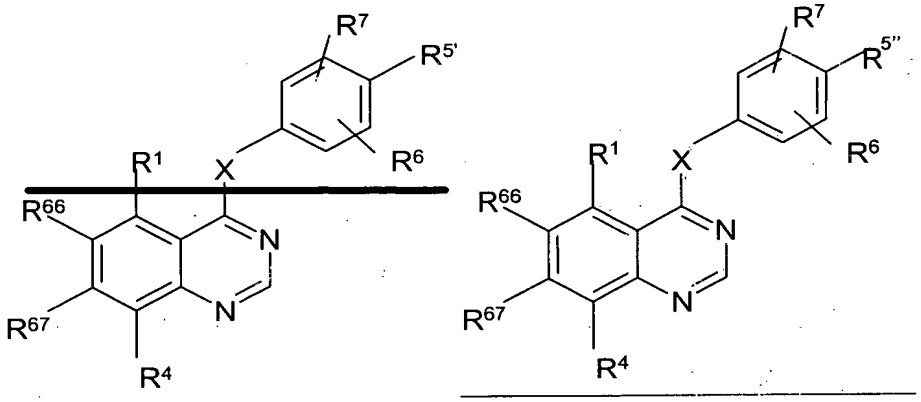
(IIIB)

or a salt, ester, amide or prodrug thereof,

where X, R^4, R^1, R^6 and R^7 are as defined ~~in claim 1 and~~ above, and R^{66} are R^{67} are as defined above provided that R^{67} is other than unsubstituted alkoxy; and $R^{5'}$ is benzyl or cyanobenzyl or $R^{5'}$ is optionally substituted phenyl, where the optional substituents include C_{1-3} alkyl groups as well as nitro and halo or $R^{5'}$ is ethynyl optionally substituted with trimethylsilyl groups, carboxy, or an C_{1-6} alkyl ester thereof; ~~as defined in claim 7~~:

or

a compound of formula (IVB)



(IVB)

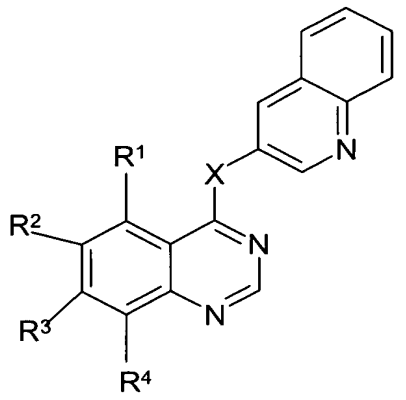
or a salt, ester, amide or prodrug thereof,

where X, R^1, R^4, R^6 and R^7 and n are as defined ~~in claim 1~~ above, $R^{5''}$ is a group of formula $NR^{10}R^{10'}$ where R^{10} and $R^{10'}$ are independently selected from hydrogen, optionally substituted hydrocarbyl or optionally substituted heterocyclyl, or R^{10} and $R^{10'}$

together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form an optionally substituted heterocyclic ring which may optionally contain further heteroatoms, or an azo group of formula -N=N-R^{11} where R^{11} is an optionally substituted hydrocarbyl group or optionally substituted heterocyclyl group, or $R^{5"}$ is a group -N=NR^{11} where R^{11} is as defined above, ~~as defined in claim 9~~ and R^{66} are R^{67} are as defined above provided that R^{67} is other than unsubstituted alkoxy;

or

a compound of formula (IVC)

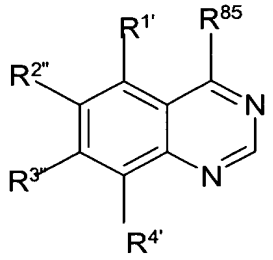


(IVC)

or a salt, ester, amide or prodrug thereof,

where R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4 and X are as defined in claim 1.

12. **(Currently Amended)** A method of preparing a compound according to claim 11, which comprises reacting a compound of formula (VII)



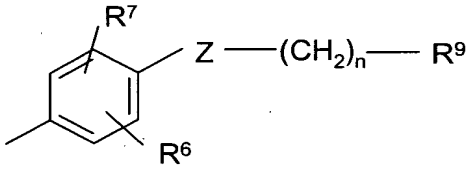
(VII)

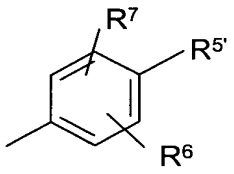
where $R^{1'}$, $R^{2"}$, $R^{3"}$, and $R^{4'}$ are respectively equivalent to a group R^1, R^{66}, R^{67} and R^4 as defined in claim 11 or a precursor thereof, and R^{85} is a leaving group, with a compound of formula (VIII)

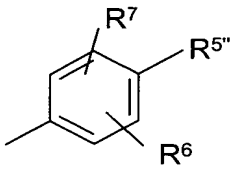
$$H\text{-}X\text{-}R^{a''}$$

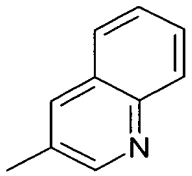
(VIII)

where X, is as defined in claim 1, and $R^{a''}$ is selected from









or

where Z, n, R^6, R^7 and R^9 are as defined in claim ~~1~~ 11,

$R^{5'}$ is ~~as defined in claim 7~~ an optionally substituted hydrocarbyl, optionally substituted heterocyclyl or optionally substituted alkoxy group, provided that $R^{5'}$ is other than ethenyl substituted by a carboxy group or an amide or sulphonamide derivative thereof, and $R^{5''}$ is ~~as defined in claim 9~~ halogen or a group of formula $NR^{10}R^{10'}$ where R^{10} and $R^{10'}$ are ~~as defined in claim 1~~ independently selected from hydrogen, optionally substituted hydrocarbyl or optionally substituted heterocyclyl, or R^{10} and $R^{10'}$ together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form an optionally substituted heterocyclic ring which may optionally contain further heteroatoms, or an azo group of formula -N=N-R^{11} where R^{11} is an optionally substituted hydrocarbyl group or optionally substituted heterocyclyl group;

~~and thereafter if desired or necessary converting a group $R^{1'}$, $R^{2''}$, $R^{3''}$ or $R^{4'}$ to a group R^1, R^2, R^3 and R^4 respectively or to a different such group~~.

13-14. **(Canceled)**

15. **(Currently Amended)** A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formula (IIB), (IIIB), (IVB) or (IVC) as defined in claim 11, or a salt, ester, amide or prodrug thereof, in combination with ~~at~~ a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

16. **(New)** A compound according to claim 11, selected from:

a compound of formula (IIB) or a salt, ester, amide or prodrug thereof,

wherein X is O, S, S(O) or $S(O)_2$, or NR^8 where R^8 is hydrogen or C_{1-6}alkyl;

Z is O or S,

n is 0, or an integer from 1 to 6,

R^1 and R^4 are both hydrogen,

R^9 is hydrogen, ethenyl, optionally substituted phenyl, optionally substituted pyridyl, or optionally substituted furanyl where optional substitutents for R^9 groups are C_{1-3}alkoxy, C_{1-3}alkyl, halo or nitro,

R^6 and R^7 are independently selected from hydrogen, halo, C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy, C_{1-4}alkoxymethyl, di(C_{1-4}alkoxy)methyl, C_{1-4}alkanoyl, trifluoromethyl, cyano, amino, C_{2-5}alkenyl, C_{2-5}alkynyl, a phenyl group, a benzyl group or a 5-6-membered heterocyclic group with 1-3 heteroatoms, selected independently from O, S and N, which heterocyclic group may be aromatic or non-aromatic and may be saturated (linked via a ring carbon or nitrogen atom) or unsaturated (linked via a ring carbon atom), and which phenyl, benzyl or heterocyclic group may bear on one or more ring carbon atoms up to 5 substituents selected from hydroxy, halogeno, C_{1-3}alkyl, C_{1-3}alkoxy, C_{1-3}alkanoyloxy, trifluoromethyl, cyano, amino, nitro, C_{2-4}alkanoyl, C_{1-4}alkanoylamino, C_{1-4}alkoxycarbonyl, C_{1-4}alkylsulphanyl, C_{1-4}alkylsulphinyl, C_{1-4}alkylsulphonyl, carbamoyl, N-C_{1-4}alkylcarbamoyl, N,N-di(C_{1-4}alkyl)carbamoyl, aminosulphonyl, N-C_{1-4}alkylaminosulphonyl, N,N-di(C_{1-4}alkyl)aminosulphonyl, C_{1-4}alkylsulphonylamino, and a saturated heterocyclic group selected from morpholino, thiomorpholino, pyrrolidinyl, piperazinyl, piperidinyl, imidazolidinyl and pyrazolidinyl, which saturated heterocyclic group may bear 1 or 2 substituents selected from oxo, hydroxy, halogeno, C_{1-3}alkyl, C_{1-3}alkoxy, C_{1-3}alkanoyloxy, trifluoromethyl, cyano, amino, nitro and C_{1-4}alkoxycarbonyl,

R^{66} is halo, cyano, nitro, trifluoromethyl, C_{1-3}alkyl, $-NR^{12}R^{13}$ (wherein R^{12} and R^{13}, which may be the same or different, each represent hydrogen or C_{1-3}alkyl), or a group $-X^1R^{14}$ where X^1 represents a direct bond, -O-, $-CH_2-$, -OC(O)-, -C(O)-, -S-, -SO-, $-SO_2-$, $-NR^{15}C(O)-$, $-C(O)NR^{16}-$, $-SO_2NR^{17}-$, $-NR^{18}SO_2-$ or $-NR^{19}-$ (wherein R^{15}, R^{16}, R^{17}, R^{18} and R^{19} each independently represent hydrogen, C_{1-3}alkyl or C_{1-3}alkoxyC_{2-3}alkyl) and R^{14} is a group (1) where group (1) is hydrogen or C_{1-5}alkyl which may be unsubstituted or which may be substituted with one or more groups selected from hydroxy, oxiranyl, fluoro, chloro, bromo and amino (including C_{1-3}alkyl and trifluoromethyl); or a group (10) where group (10) is $-R^gR^{38}$ and wherein R^{38} represents a pyridone group, a phenyl group or a 5-6-membered aromatic heterocyclic group (linked via carbon or nitrogen) with 1-3 heteroatoms selected from O, N and S, which pyridone, phenyl or aromatic heterocyclic group may carry up to 5 substituents selected from hydroxy, nitro, halogeno,

amino, C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy, C_{1-4}hydroxyalkyl, C_{1-4}aminoalkyl, C_{1-4}alkylamino, C_{1-4}hydroxyalkoxy, oxo, cyanoC_{1-4}alkyl, cyclopropyl, C_{1-4}alkylsulphonylC_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxycarbonyl, di(C_{1-4}alkyl)amino, C_{1-4}alkylaminoC_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkanoyl, di(C_{1-4}alkyl)aminoC_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkylaminoC_{1-4}alkoxy, di(C_{1-4}alkyl)aminoC_{1-4}alkoxy, carboxy, carboxamido, trifluoromethyl, cyano, $-C(O)NR^{39}R^{40}$, $-NR^{41}C(O)R^{42}$ (wherein R^{39}, R^{40}, R^{41} and R^{42}, which may be the same or different, each represents hydrogen, C_{1-4}alkyl, hydroxyC_{1-4}alkyl or C_{1-3}alkoxyC_{2-3}alkyl) and a group $-(-O-)_f(C_{1-4}alkyl)_g$ringD (wherein f is 0 or 1, g is 0 or 1 and ring D is a cyclic group selected from C_{3-6}cycloalkyl, aryl or 5-6-membered saturated or unsaturated heterocyclic group with 1-2 heteroatoms, selected independently from O, S and N, which cyclic group may bear one or more substituents selected from halo and C_{1-4}alkyl); and wherein R^g is a C_{1-8}alkylene group optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from hydroxy, halogeno and amino,

and R^{67} is 3-morpholinopropoxy;

or

a compound of formula (IIIB) or a salt, ester, amide or prodrug thereof,

wherein X, R^1, R^4, R^6, R^7 and R^{66} are as defined above

R^{67} is C_{1-6}alkoxy optionally substituted ~~by~~ with fluorine or a group X^1R^{38} in which X^1 represents a direct bond, -O-, $-CH_2-$, -OCO-, carbonyl, -S-, -SO-, $-SO_2-$, $-NR^{12}CO-$, $-CONR^{12}-$, $-SO_2NR^{12}-$, $-NR^{13}SO_2-$ or $-NR^{14}-$ (wherein R^{12}, R^{13} and R^{14} each independently represents hydrogen, C_{1-3}alkyl or C_{1-3}alkoxyC_{2-3}alkyl) and R^{38} represents a pyridone group, a phenyl group or a 5-6-membered aromatic heterocyclic group (linked via carbon or nitrogen) with 1-3 heteroatoms selected from O, N and S, which pyridone, phenyl or aromatic heterocyclic group may carry up to 5 substituents on an available carbon atom selected from hydroxy, halogeno, amino, C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy, C_{1-4}hydroxyalkyl, C_{1-4}aminoalkyl, C_{1-4}alkylamino, C_{1-4}hydroxyalkoxy, carboxy, trifluoromethyl, cyano, $-CONR^{39}R^{40}$ and $-NR^{41}COR^{42}$ (wherein R^{39}, R^{40}, R^{41} and R^{42}, which may be the same or different, each represents hydrogen, C_{1-4}alkyl or C_{1-3}alkoxyC_{2-3}alkyl); wherein at least R^{67} is other than unsubstituted alkoxy;

and $R^{5'}$ is benzyl and cyanobenzyl or $R^{5'}$ is optionally substituted phenyl, where the optional substituents include C_{1-3} alkyl groups as well as nitro and halo or $R^{5'}$ is ethynyl optionally substituted with trimethylsilyl groups, carboxy, or an C_{1-6} alkyl ester thereof

or

a compound of formula (IVB) or a salt, ester, amide or prodrug thereof,

where X, R^1, R^4, R^6 and R^7 are as defined in relation to formula (IIB) above

$R^{5''}$ a group of formula $NR^{10}R^{10'}$ where R^{10} and $R^{10'}$ are independently selected from hydrogen, alkyl or heterocyclyl, or R^{10} and $R^{10'}$ together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a morpholino or terahydropyridyl or $R^{5''}$ is a group $-N=NR^{11}$ where R^{11} is alkyl or phenyl or heterocyclyl

and R^{66} are R^{67} are as defined in relation to formula (IIIB) above;

or

a compound of formula (IVC) or a salt, ester, amide or prodrug thereof,

where X, R^1, R^4 are as defined in relation to formula (IIB) above

R^2 and R^3 are independently selected from, halo, cyano, nitro, trifluoromethyl, C_{1-3}alkyl, $-NR^9R^{10}$ (wherein R^9 and R^{10}, which may be the same or different, each represents hydrogen or C_{1-3}alkyl), or $-X^1R^{14}$ (wherein X^1 represents a direct bond, -O-, $-CH_2-$, -OCO-, carbonyl, -S-, -SO-, $-SO_2-$, $-NR^{12}CO-$, $-CONR^{12}-$, $-SO_2NR^{12}-$, $-NR^{13}SO_2-$ or $-NR^{14}-$ (wherein R^{12}, R^{13} and R^{14} each independently represents hydrogen, C_{1-3}alkyl or C_{1-3}alkoxyC_{2-3}alkyl), and R^{14} is selected from one of the following groups:

1') hydrogen or C_{1-5}alkyl which may be unsubstituted or which may be substituted with one or more groups selected from hydroxy, fluoro or amino,

2') C_{1-5}alkylX^2COR^{20} (wherein X^2 represents -O- or $-NR^{21}-$ (in which R^{20} represents hydrogen, C_{1-3}alkyl or C_{1-3}alkoxyC_{2-3}alkyl) and R^{21} represents C_{1-3}alkyl, $-NR^{22}R^{23}$ or $-OR^{24}$ (wherein R^{22}, R^{23} and R^{24} which may be the same or different each represents hydrogen, C_{1-3}alkyl or C_{1-3}alkoxyC_{2-3}alkyl);

3') C_{1-5}alkylX^3R^{25} (wherein X^3 represents -O-, -S-, -SO-, $-SO_2-$, -OCO-, $-NR^{26}CO-$, $-CONR^{27}-$, $-SO_2NR^{28}-$, $-NR^{29}SO_2-$ or $-NR^{30}-$ (wherein R^{26}, R^{27}, R^{28}, R^{29} and R^{30} each independently represents hydrogen, C_{1-3}alkyl or C_{1-3}alkoxyC_{2-3}alkyl) and R^{25} represents hydrogen, C_{1-3}alkyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl or a 5-6-membered saturated heterocyclic group with 1-2 heteroatoms, selected independently from O, S and N, which C_{1-3}alkyl group may bear 1 or 2 substituents selected from oxo, hydroxy, halogeno and C_{1-4}alkoxy and which cyclic group may bear 1 or 2 substituents selected from oxo, hydroxy, halogeno, C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}hydroxyalkyl and C_{1-4}alkoxy);

4') C_{1-5}alkylX^4C_{1-5}alkylX^5R^{31} (wherein X^4 and X^5 which may be the same or different are each -O-, -S-, -SO-, $-SO_2-$, $-NR^{32}CO-$, $-CONR^{33}-$, $-SO_2NR^{34}-$, $-NR^{35}SO_2-$ or $-NR^{36}-$ (wherein R^{32}, R^{33}, R^{34}, R^{35} and R^{36} each independently represents hydrogen, C_{1-3}alkyl or C_{1-3}alkoxyC_{2-3}alkyl) and R^{31} represents hydrogen or C_{1-3}alkyl);

5') R^{37} (wherein R^{37} is a 5-6-membered saturated heterocyclic group (linked via carbon or nitrogen) with 1-2 heteroatoms, selected independently from O, S and N, which heterocyclic group may bear 1 or 2 substituents selected from oxo, hydroxy, halogeno, C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}hydroxyalkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy, C_{1-4}alkoxyC_{1-4}alkyl and C_{1-4}alkylsulphonylC_{1-4}alkyl);

6') C_{1-5}alkylR^{37} (wherein R^{37} is as defined hereinbefore in (5'));

7') C_{2-5}alkenylR^{37} (wherein R^{37} is as defined hereinbefore in (5'));

8') C_{2-5}alkynylR^{37} (wherein R^{37} is as defined hereinbefore in (5'));

9') R^{38} (wherein R^{38} represents a pyridone group, a phenyl group or a 5-6-membered aromatic heterocyclic group (linked via carbon or nitrogen) with 1-3 heteroatoms selected from O, N and S, which pyridone, phenyl or aromatic heterocyclic group may carry up to 5 substituents on an available carbon atom selected from hydroxy, halogeno, amino, C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy, C_{1-4}hydroxyalkyl, C_{1-4}aminoalkyl, C_{1-4}alkylamino, C_{1-4}hydroxyalkoxy, carboxy, trifluoromethyl, cyano, $-CONR^{39}R^{40}$ and $-NR^{41}COR^{42}$ (wherein R^{39}, R^{40}, R^{41} and R^{42}, which may be the same or different, each represents hydrogen, C_{1-4}alkyl or C_{1-3}alkoxyC_{2-3}alkyl));

10') C_{1-5}alkylR^{38} (wherein R^{38} is as defined hereinbefore in (9'));

11') C_{2-5}alkenylR^{38} (wherein R^{38} is as defined hereinbefore in (9'));

12') C_{2-5}alkynylR^{38} (wherein R^{38} is as defined hereinbefore in (9'));

13') C_{1-5}alkylX^6R^{38} (wherein X^6 represents -O-, -S-, -SO-, $-SO_2-$, $-NR^{43}CO-$, $-CONR^{44}-$, $-SO_2NR^{45}-$, $-NR^{46}SO_2-$ or $-NR^{47}-$ (wherein R^{43}, R^{44}, R^{45}, R^{46} and R^{47} each independently represents hydrogen, C_{1-3}alkyl or C_{1-3}alkoxyC_{2-3}alkyl) and R^{38} is as defined hereinbefore in (9'));

14') C_{2-5}alkenylX^7R^{38} (wherein X^7 represents -O-, -S-, -SO-, $-SO_2-$, $-NR^{48}CO-$, $-CONR^{49}-$, $-SO_2NR^{50}-$, $-NR^{51}SO_2-$ or $-NR^{52}-$ (wherein R^{48}, R^{49}, R^{50}, R^{51} and R^{52} each independently represents hydrogen, C_{1-3}alkyl or C_{1-3}alkoxyC_{2-3}alkyl) and R^{38} is as defined hereinbefore in (9'));

15') C_{2-5}alkynylX^8R^{38} (wherein X^8 represents -O-, -S-, -SO-, $-SO_2-$, $-NR^{53}CO-$, $-CONR^{54}-$, $-SO_2NR^{55}-$, $-NR^{56}SO_2-$ or $-NR^{57}-$ (wherein R^{53}, R^{54}, R^{55}, R^{56} and R^{57} each independently represents hydrogen, C_{1-3}alkyl or C_{1-3}alkoxyC_{2-3}alkyl) and R^{38} is as defined hereinbefore in (9'));

16') C_{1-3}alkylX^9C_{1-3}alkylR^{38} (wherein X^9 represents -O-, -S-, -SO-, $-SO_2-$, $-NR^{58}CO-$, $-CONR^{59}-$, $-SO_2NR^{60}-$, $-NR^{61}SO_2-$ or $-NR^{62}-$ (wherein R^{58}, R^{59}, R^{60}, R^{61} and R^{62} each independently represents hydrogen, C_{1-3}alkyl or C_{1-3}alkoxyC_{2-3}alkyl) and R^{38} is as defined hereinbefore in (9')); and

17') C_{1-3}alkylX^9C_{1-3}alkylR^{37} (wherein X^9 and R^{37} are as defined hereinbefore (in 5')).